

Article Criticizes 'Blandness' of DIA

By
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Blood pressure readings at the hush-hush Defense Intelligence Agency will zoom over the danger mark next week, when a most unflattering article about the Pentagon's cloak-and-dagger operation hits newsstands.

The story, due out in the July issue of The Washington Monthly, will hurt all the more because it's by Patrick J. McGarvey, identified as an ex-CIA and ex-DIA intelligence officer.

McGarvey claims the intelligence unit isn't completely trusted by either military or civilians because of its policy of "compromise and of blandness, of pleasing everybody and therefore informing or edifying nobody."

McGarvey, now associate editor of Government Executive magazine, says that the military short-tour assignment system is hard on officers who are supposed to run the

agency. He says many of the military men come out suffering with bureaucratic shell shock, because they sometimes must make reports that don't jibe with what their "parent" service wants to hear, a frequent complaint in other agencies.

Although the magazine probably would be delighted to give a DIA official equal time to answer the charges, nobody is likely to ask for it. DIA, like its sister silent services, has learned to grimace and bear it.